

Woollahra 2014 *heritage inventory*

Based on the NSW Heritage Office State Heritage Inventory sheet

ITEM DETAILS			
Name of item	Current name of the item White City site		
Other name/s Former name/s	Previous names or common names White City Tennis Centre, White City Amusement Park		
Item type (if known)	Archaeological, Built, Landscape, Movable/Collection, Area/Group/complex Built, Cultural landscape		
Item group (if known)			
Item category (if known)			
Area, Group or Collection Name	Name of the area, group of collection to which the item belongs		
Address	Street name OR direction from nearest town if non-urban. 30 and 30A Alma Street, Paddington 73-79 New South Head Road, Edgecliff 81-83 New South Head Road, Edgecliff		
Suburb/town	Provide suburb, town or nearest town. Paddington/Edgecliff	Postcode 2021/2027	
Local Government Area	Local government area/s. Woollahra Municipality		
Property description	Folio identifier for sites (Lot & DP) Lot 1 DP 1114604 – The Trustee of Sydney Grammar School Lot 2 DP1114604 – The Hakoah Club Limited and the Sydney Maccabi Tennis Club Limited. Lot 21 DP609145 – Crystal Car Wash Pty Ltd Lot 22 DP 609145 – Crystal Car Wash Pty Ltd Lot 1 & 2 DP 573377 – Sydney Water Lot 2 DP 234605 – Railcorp and The Trustee of Sydney Grammar School		
Owner	Name of owner if government or 'private' if in private ownership Private – see above		
Current use	Current use of the item – be brief Tennis courts, clubhouse and carpark, school sportsfield and carpark, service station, car wash, stormwater channel, land under railway viaduct.	Former use Former White City Amusement Park, Market gardens	
Statement of significance	The statement of significance should set out the degree and nature of the significance of the item. The <i>White City</i> site is part of a significant historic and cultural landscape that demonstrates the evolution of Lower Paddington from the original land grant given in 1817 to William Thomas, as swampy land unsuitable for settlement to market gardening by Europeans and later as Chinese market gardens. The market gardens were replaced by the White City Amusement Park in 1913, and on its failure, the lands became the lawn tennis grounds known as <i>White City</i>. The sites' complex overlays are of high significance for their ability to demonstrate a range of activities always based on open space uses. The original wetland is expressed in the uniformly level tennis courts, playing fields and parkland of <i>White City</i>, Weigall Sports Ground, Trumper Park and Rushcutters Bay Park. The <i>White City</i> site makes a distinctive aesthetic contribution to the Lower Paddington area as part of the continuous green open valley floor that begins at Rushcutters Bay and merges together with the Weigall Sports Ground, White		

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City tennis courts and Trumper Park. There are significant views into the site from New South Head Road, Neild Avenue across the Weigall Sports Ground, Alma Street, Glenmore Road, Walker Avenue and significant vistas from the site taking in the Paddington 'amphitheatre' and the city silhouette.

The open stormwater channel that traverses the site is a highly significant historic element, being an arm of Sydney Water's Rushcutters Bay Stormwater Channel No. 84, one of the first of nine purpose-built stormwater channels constructed in Sydney in the 1890s. The concrete channel follows the central axis of the La Crozia Valley allowing an understanding of the 18th century topography and the evolution from Glenmore Creek to an open sewer and finally to its current form.

White City, in particular the centre courts complex, demonstrates exceptional historic, associative and social significance for the site's relationship to the development of tennis as a form of recreation, entertainment and competition in NSW and Australia. *White City* has been a highly significant sporting venue hosting many national and international tennis events including the Australian Open, Davis Cup, and NSW Open Championships. The place has been associated with many famous tennis players, both Australian and international, and has contributed to the international perception of Australia as a world class sporting nation. *White City* demonstrates the high regard that the tennis community and wider community holds for the location of significant sporting/tennis championships, and as a historically prestigious sporting facility.

White City is historically linked to the game of Lawn Tennis and the New South Wales Lawn Tennis Association which established the White City Tennis Centre in 1922. The White City Tennis Centre was used by the NSW Lawn Tennis Association (Tennis NSW) and the White City Club, which have a long association with the social history of tennis in the region and the state.

The centre courts arena and the surrounding grandstands are of high historic, associative and social significance, as the core precinct of the tennis complex. The centre courts space and its containment as an arena evoke a sense of occasion and are associated with memories of both victory and defeat. The centre court area used to contain the championship grass court used at the pinnacle of Davis Cup popularity. The centre courts have changed position and the original surfaces have been replaced.

The southern grandstand, initially constructed in 1923 and extended in the late 1920s, is historically significant as the first stand to be constructed about the centre court, for its association with the Lawn Tennis Association Presidents' and Ground Members' seats, and for its continuous use from 1923 - 1999. It has aesthetic and technical significance for its engineering design and its ability to demonstrate the early development of new engineering solutions for larger purpose-built structures in Australia. It is representative of the development of early 20th century stadia.

The northern grandstand stage 1, the Marsh Stand, built in the 1930s, is significant for its association with Henry Marsh, after whom the stand was named. Henry Marsh, and the President of the Lawn Tennis Association Charles T Bull, are credited with being the driving force in the search for the new grounds for the NSW Lawn Tennis Grounds Limited in 1919, which was formed to control and run the grounds of *White City*. The northern stand stage 1 is also

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	of historic significance for its ability to demonstrate the early development of the grounds and of early sporting facilities. <i>White City</i> has technical significance associated with the invention and use of the first Electric Scoreboard, which was built by Ted Both in 1952 for the NSW championships, and also with the first live telecast of tennis in Australia, the 1957 NSW titles, one year after televising began in Australia. <i>White City</i> is now important for its opportunity to retain and/or adapt the extant 1923 Southern Grandstand trusses, the Stage 1 Northern Grandstand arches and the NSWLTA Gates, along with the history of the site, all of which provide for the ability to retain a meaningful representation of the site's history.	
Level of significance	State State: The centre courts complex as the location of the international and national tennis tournaments.	Local Local: As per state and also the cultural landscape including the visual curtilage of Rushcutters Bay Park and Weigall Sports Ground.

DESCRIPTION	
Designer	Name of the principal designer of the item, this may be an individual and/or company name. T.H.Eslick (White City Amusement Park) / White City - unknown
Builder/maker	Name of the builder or maker of the item, this may be an individual and/or company name. T.H.Eslick (White City Amusement Park) / White City – unknown
Physical Description	Describe the item's main physical features, including surroundings and contents. <i>White City</i> is located within the broad La Crozia valley which extends from Rushcutters Bay south, then south-east to Trumper Park and includes Rushcutters Bay Park, Reg Bartley Oval and Weigall Sports Ground. The valley lies within a natural amphitheatre with an escarpment to the residential areas of Edgecliff and the slopes of Paddington. It is characterised by large areas of open green space for tennis courts and playing fields. The stormwater channel that runs east-west through the site follows a line similar to the former Glenmore Brook, a natural water flow which joined La Crozia creek. The concrete channel is approximately 4.7 metres wide and 1.5 to 2 metres deep and creates a distinct break between the courts. There are two bridge crossings to allow pedestrian and vehicular traffic, one with a recent timber roof structure over the crossing. It occasionally floods with a combination of king tides and excessive rain. A service station is located on the site to the north of the railway viaduct with access from New South Head Road. A car wash is located on parcel east of the service station fronting New South Head Road. This part of the site is at a high level adjacent New South Head Road, creating a distinctive area separated by the railway viaduct. Two access roads lead down into the site beyond these buildings negotiating a substantial level change, however these access roads are not used and are blocked off with wire fencing and gates. The site contains three areas of car parking with the main car park located to the west of the club house, accessed from Alma Street. Additional parking is located to the north of the stormwater channel and in an area under the railway viaduct, all accessed from the Alma Street carpark and used by Sydney Grammar School. The centre courts complex is located to the south-east corner of the site, surrounded by tennis courts to the east and north. The centre courts complex is positioned close to the escarpment that marks the distinction between the lower slopes of Paddington and the broad open valley floor of Rushcutters Bay. The

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	centre courts arena consists of two tennis courts: One Classic Clay artificial court laid over the Rebound Ace surface which had replaced the grass courts and one grass court both running north-south. The grass court is a mixture of different varieties of couch grass. Surrounding the centre courts on all four sides are four separate grandstands: the oldest stand, the southern grandstand, from 1923; the northern grandstand, from the 1930s and 1970s; and the eastern and western grandstands, from the 1980s. The southern grandstand is covered by a large sloping partially cantilevered roof supported by a complex timber and steel trussed roof structure on timber and steel posts and beams. Initially it sat 3,500 with 500 more seats erected at the rear and sides of the stand in the late 1920s. The side and northern additions evolved as the need arose to expand spectator facilities in line with the rise of the popularity and importance of tennis matches in Australia. The roof and back wall are externally clad in corrugated iron in the manner of a large rustic shed. This cladding is bedded down into the streetscape of Glenmore Road at a low-density scale. There is an exposed timber stud frame construction to the interior of the rear wall. The area under the stand contains a basement area. There are remnant metal loudspeakers in roof space for transmitting commentary; a glazed press box; wrought iron balustrading to the member's section; and remnants of a rose garden in front of the stand. The northern grandstand stage 1 was constructed in the 1930s and contains an arched masonry wing below the seating with a covered 'street'. The outward façade contains arches infilled with windows, doors, ticket booths and accessways to the arena flanked by painted directional signage. The remainder of the grandstand was constructed in the 1970s from brick and concrete. Various groups use this stand for recreational, athletic and sporting purposes. The eastern stand, constructed in 1985 to seat 600 people, was constructed in concrete blocks with lightweight steel trusses and a cantilevered metal roof. Player's change rooms and lounges are below the grandstand. This stand is occupied by the Maccabi Tennis Club Ltd who use the courts to the east. The western stand, rebuilt in 1989, is similar to the eastern stand but without a roof. A tennis museum with significant memorabilia was located below the western stand but in 2005 this moved to the Homebush Tennis Centre. The memorabilia associated with the White City Club is believed to remain on site. This stand is occupied by the Hakoah Club Pty Ltd. Vegetation is mostly in the form of a treed perimeter to the site and screen planting. The site contains a large variety of native and exotic species. A very large and aesthetically distinctive Moreton Bay Fig is located close to the centre of the valley floor adjacent the stormwater channel.
Views and vistas	Views from within the site are primarily of the valley floor and the surrounding slopes of the natural amphitheatre. Views to the west are of the city skyline with dramatic city views visible at night. Views to the north-east are dominated by the apartment buildings of Edgecliff. Views to the south are of the amphitheatre of the Paddington slopes. The Eastern Suburbs Railway viaduct is a major visual intrusion in the north of the site. The views into the site from the surrounding upper Paddington and Edgecliff areas are of a continuous green valley floor swath leading from Rushcutters Bay towards Trumper Park. Closer to the site, views are more restricted by

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	residential development and mature vegetation. Significant views over the site include the view from New South Head Road near Mahoney Lane which reveals a panoramic view of the densely developed slopes of Paddington. Significant views into the site also include those from Neild Avenue across Weigall Sports Ground and from Glenmore Road over the southern courts. More intimate views can be seen from Alma Street and Walker Avenue.					
Physical condition	The 'Structural Assessment of the Grandstands' report undertaken by AECOM in April 2013 concludes that: "The northern and southern grandstands have fallen into a state of disrepair and unless major repair/ maintenance works are carried out, these structures are structurally inadequate for use by the general public."- AECOM 'White City: Structural Assessment of Grandstands' Significant defects include the following: Northern Grandstand ▪ Significant concrete deterioration and durability issues ▪ Corrosion in structural steel frame ▪ Significant corrosion in steel balustrade ▪ Brickwork crack in masonry archway ▪ Damaged timber cladding at rear of grandstand Southern Grandstand ▪ Significant damage in timber framed deck ▪ Significant splitting in timber bow trusses and columns ▪ Significant areas of corrosion in roof steelwork ▪ Significant damage in metal roof" The club house requires fire services to be updated and some water penetration was evident. Numerous other issues noted.					
Construction years	Start year		Finish year		Circa 1913/1922	☐
Modification and Dates	List all significant modifications and relevant dates with a brief description including the level of intrusion (considerable, some, little or none). 1913 – Opening of White City Amusement Park. 1917 – Destruction of White City Amusement Park by fire 1922 – Official opening of Sydney Lawn Tennis Ground as White City 1923 – Southern grandstand constructed; 500 seats were added in the late 1920s. 1924 – Night lighting installed 1925 – Sale to Sydney Grammar School of part of the grounds 1930s –The northern stand constructed, resumption of storm water channel, land near New South Head Road leased as service station. 1946 – Purchase of AGL site and removal of gasometer, renovation of Caretakers cottage as White City Club 1948 – Opening of White City Club with liquor licence 1952 – First electronic scoreboard 1957 – First televised matches 1963 – Sale of southwest corner at Alma Street to Sydney Grammar for Preparatory School 1968 – Demolition of WCC and NSWLTA clubhouses for the eastern suburbs					

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	railway 1970 – New clubhouse constructed under the northern stand 1985 – The new eastern stand constructed, removing one of the three centre courts 1989 – The western stand was rebuilt 1999 – Final international tournament played 2000 – Tennis NSW (previously NSW LTA) Move to Homebush Tennis Centre. 2005 – Tennis Museum memorabilia moved to Homebush Tennis Centre
Archaeological potential	Archaeological evidence of the location of the former White City Club adjoining New South Head Road is still visible.
Comparative analysis	Any further information relevant to the significance of the item. Sporting venues which have been identified in the CMP as comparable to the White City Tennis Centre for their cultural significance are the Kooyong Tennis Stadium and Clubhouse and North Sydney Olympic Pool. Kooyong complex has hosted Australian Open and Davis Club matches. The clubhouse is of historical significance for its association with the Lawn Tennis Association of Victoria and Australia, with the history of tennis and leading tennis players of the world post WWII. The stadium is of historical, architectural and engineering significance. Three other places associated with tennis history are included on the Register of the National Estate. The Royal Kings Park Tennis Club, Perth, being the most significant tennis club complex which similarly hosted international tennis events including the Davis Cup from 1928. That site has aesthetic and social significance to the tennis and wider community. The other tennis complexes are: the Royal Tennis Court and Clubrooms, Hobart and the Loton Park Tennis Club Pavilion, Perth. Early 20th century grandstands suitable for a comparative analysis with the southern grandstand have been identified in the CMP and this assessment as being: Bexley Oval grandstand (1913), Leichhardt Oval West Tigers Stadium (1912), Olver Stand, Alexandria Oval, Ararat (c.1900s), Central Park, Stawell (c.1899), stand at Navarre, Northern Grampians (1924). Only the latter is of any value for a comparable design as an Inter-War grandstand as the others are earlier Federation/Edwardian designs. All noted examples have hipped and gabled roof forms and decorative Federation/Edwardian details. White City's southern grandstand differs markedly in its austere presentation as a large engineered structure undiluted by any superfluous detail. Of more value for comparative purposes in terms of aesthetic and technical significance are structures such as the timber wharfs and jetties at Walsh Bay (1912-1921), in particular Piers 2/3, 3/4 and 8/9, for their large scale timber truss construction within simple shed forms. Research to date indicates the southern grandstand to be a rare and fine example of its type with no known parallel.
HISTORY	
Historical notes	A brief history that identifies significant people, places and dates associated with the item. In 1811, Governor Macquarie granted Thomas West, carpenter, 40 acres in the La Crozia Valley which included Rushcutter Creek. The area was known as West's Bush and Barcom Glen. A grant of 40 acres was given to William Thomas in 1817, to the east of the West grant, as recompense for the loss of one of the Thomas's children in an accident involving the Governors carriage. The grant formed most of the low lying swampy area at the head of Rushcutters Bay and part became the site of the White City Tennis Centre. Cooper and Holt acquired the Thomas grant in the

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1840s, when Rushcutter's Bay was sparsely populated with only a few buildings along New South Head Road. The developing industry was market gardening.

The original Thomas grant, owned by Daniel Cooper until his death in 1853, was left in trust to Sarah Booth (nee Cooper). She leased the land to market gardeners, initially Europeans and later Chinese, who came to dominate the supply of fresh fruit and vegetables to the region. There were campaigns against the Chinese gardeners by a group of local residents and business people. Protest meetings were held and petitions sent to Sir Henry Parkes concerning the Chinese presence requesting that the gardens be resumed. The area was considered a health hazard as it received most of Paddington's stormwater and sewerage.

In 1860 Paddington was proclaimed a Municipality. The area around Rushcutters Bay became known as Lower Paddington. Subdivision and land speculation were ongoing in Paddington from the 1870s, increasing the pressure on Lower Paddington. As the large estates of the Rushcutters Bay gentry were subdivided, small scale housing began to encroach down the hill towards the bay and the low lying areas occupied by the market gardeners. With this rapid development came its waste products, the sewage and stormwater which drained down to the bay. The Government resumed the land on the north of New South Head Road around the Bay in the late 1870s and by 1885 infilled the bay and created Rushcutters Bay Park. The problem of the low lying area to the south remained. Issues of public health continued.

The Booth Estate was subdivided in 1900 but did not sell quickly due to the restrictions of current leases and the considerable cost to make the site fit for building. Some Chinese market gardens remained leased until 1909. In 1903 the AGL company bought land for a gasometer near New South Head Road.

The Sydney Grammar School purchased 7.5 acres of the Booth Estate in 1907 for Weigall Sports Ground, naming the ground after headmaster Albert Weigall (1866-1895).

The Sydney Stadium was built in 1908 at the northwest corner of the site as an outdoor boxing arena, which was later enclosed for a variety of entertainment purposes.

Some unsuccessful businesses occupied parts of the site in the 1910s: the Aerated Bread Company in the north, Sydney Croquet and Recreation Lawns Limited in the south.

The White City Amusement Park, opened on the site of the on 3 December 1913, as a marvel of timber and plaster, by Cosens Spencer, a film entrepreneur who established the 'Great American Theatrescope' at the Lyceum Theatre in Sydney. The name White City was derived from a London Amusement Park. The name referring to the all-white buildings created with the use of lath (a thin wood framework on chicken wire base) and a mixture of plaster of Paris and hemp fibre.

White City was designed and built by T.H. Eslick who also designed and built Luna Park at St Kilda. White City offered seasonal entertainment (December – April): a fun fair, music hall, ballroom, and a fairground. The attractions included a scenic railway, river caves, fun factory, palais des folies, Japanese village, Crystal Tangle, giant carousel and live performances such as military band, high walkers and roller skating.

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The White City Carousel, was built by the Philadelphia Toboggan Company, renowned for the great artistry of its craftsman and the quality of its construction. The Carousel was the 30th built by the PTC and the only one to leave America. It was later bought by Melbourne's Luna Park and remains there. The White City Amusement Park was hit by lightning and destroyed by fire in 1917. In 1918 White City Limited went into liquidation and its assets sold.

The Ministry for Housing announced the resumption of the land on both sides of the drainage canal for a housing scheme. The suitability of the site was raised, which prompted the filling of the land with material from Woolloomooloo. By April 1920 the housing scheme was finally rejected.

The NSWLTA was founded in 1890 with premises acquired in Double Bay in 1907. It outgrew those facilities as the popularity of tennis grew with the success of the Australasian Challengers, Patterson and Anderson in the 1919 Davis Cup.

In 1921 NSW Lawn Tennis Grounds Ltd was formed to purchase, control and run the Rushcutters Bay grounds which became known as *White City*, taking the name of the former Amusement Park. The official opening of the Sydney Lawn Tennis Ground was on 21 October 1922 by the State Treasurer Mr AA Cocks, and President of NSWLTA. The event was celebrated with a mixed tournament with 96 pairs participating. Thirty seven grass courts and 16 hard courts were envisaged compared to the 15 courts at the Double Bay site. A club house was constructed, at the northern end of the site close to New South Head Road. It was admired as 'one of the best in the world' and 'pleasing to the eye' with an imposing view of the grounds. One month after opening a unique tournament was played with women playing singles for the first time in an Australian Championship.

In 1923 a large 3,500 seat grandstand (the southern grandstand) was built. The roof was constructed of timber trusses which cantilevered over part of the stand so that all the seats were covered. Financial difficulties in the late 1920s lead to admission of 'Ground members' with playing rights and members seats in the grandstand. In the late 1920s the popularity of hard court tennis was increasing. 500 more seats were erected at the back and alongside original chair seats of the southern grandstand. Debenture holders were given special seats in perpetuity. By 1924 night tennis lighting was installed on the 5 hard courts.

By the 1930s, Australian players were amongst the top in the world and people flocked to *White City* to see them play. International players at the centre included Jean Borotra of France, Fred Perry of Britain, Ellsworth Vines of the USA, and Jiroh Satoh of Japan. The Australian tennis players of the 1930s, who played at the Courts included Adrian Quest, Jack Crawford, Harry Hopman and Vivian McGrath. In 1939 A. K. Quist and J. Bromwick won the Davis Cup back for Australia, the first such win since 1919. The outbreak of WWII put tennis on hold.

In the 1930s a small area of land on New South Head Road was leased for use as a service station. It remains in use as a service station.

The northern grandstand was constructed in the 1930s, smaller than the southern grandstand. It was constructed of concrete and timber with a simple corrugated tin roof structure that only covered the centre section of the stand. The eastern and western stands were constructed in the 1940s as simple low

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	timber structures with no roof coverings. They were replaced in the 1980s. The White City Club (WCC) was established in 1948 as a licensed club unlike the original NSWLTA. The NSWLTA purchased the gasometer site to the west of the club house on the New South Head Road from the AGL Company. The WCC set up in the caretaker cottage located on the AGL land for its club premises. It became a popular venue for young residents of Sydney's eastern suburbs social and celebrity set on Friday nights. The two clubs did not associate with each other. They continued on separately until the Eastern Suburbs railway overpass resumed a portion of land parallel to New South Head Road, causing both clubhouses to be demolished in 1968. The railway opened on 23 June 1979. Tennis reached the peak of its popularity, its 'golden age' as a spectator sport in the 1950s. <i>White City</i> became the venue of many international tennis events such as the NSW Open Championships, the Australian Open Championships and the Davis Cup. The centre court was originally planned to host the Davis Cup matches but this did not happen until Boxing Day 1951 when the Australians Frank Sedgman, Ken McGregor and Mervyn Rose defeated the United States. In 1954, 25,578 people attended <i>White City</i> when the United States successfully challenged Lew Hoad and Ken Rosewall for the Davis Cup. This is an attendance record for an outdoor Davis Cup match which has not been surpassed. <i>White City</i> had the first electric scoreboard in Australia which was built by Ted Both in 1952 for the NSW championships. In 1957 the NSW titles were televised live for the first time anywhere in the country as television was just one year old in Australia. The 1960s and 1970s saw many Davis Cup matches held at <i>White City</i> with Australia winning many of them. Local players included Neale Fraser, Rod Laver, Roy Emerson, John Newcombe, Tony Roche and John Alexander. In 1963 the NSWLTA sold part of its lands on Alma Street to Sydney Grammar School for a preparatory school. During the 1970s the <i>White City</i> grounds were made available for entertainment other than tennis. The first pop concert was held in October 1970 and public protest followed as residents of Edgecliff and beyond were subjected to the noise of open air pop concerts, wrestling, boxing and basketball. These functions were curtailed and in 1973, the Sydney Stadium was demolished along with the Cinecraft building for the eastern suburbs railway. In 1970 the NSWLTA and the WCC built their new club house behind and in the airspace under the existing northern stand. More seats were constructed of concrete at a higher level, doubling the seating capacity. The covered roof was also removed. A through roadway was created under the stand. In the 1970s, 1980s and 1990s many famous Australian tennis players competed at White City including Evonne Goolagong, Pat Cash, John Fitzgerald, Paul MacNamee, Patrick Rafter and the Woodies. International Players included Pete Sampras, Monica Seles, Martina Hingis, Tod Martin, Gabriela Sabatini, Tim Henman, Karol Kucera and Arantxa Sanchez Vicario. In 1985 the Association celebrated the centenary of the first championships played in NSW. The eastern stand was built, requiring the removal of one of the three courts from the centre court area. The positioning of the centre courts
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	between the northern and southern stands has changed over time. Furthermore, the number of grass courts has also changed. Currently there is only one grass court and one red synthetic material court. In the 1980s the club house under the north stand was renovated and extended to include an eastern end two storeys in height. In 1989 the western stand was rebuilt. A new rebound ace court was laid at centre court alongside the grass court to match the surface at the Melbourne Park National Tennis Centre in 1989. This surface has now been replaced by a 'Classic Clay' synthetic clay court. In January 1999, the final International tournament was played at <i>White City</i> prior to its move to Sydney International Tennis Centre, part of the Olympic 2000 facilities at Homebush. Tennis NSW (previously NSWLTA) relocated to the new Tennis Centre at Homebush Bay in 2001. The Tennis NSW memorabilia was moved to Homebush in 2005. The centre courts complex is now owned by the Hakoah Club Pty Ltd and the Sydney Maccabi Tennis Club Pty Ltd, continuing the use of <i>White City</i> as a tennis and recreation venue. The green open space to the north of the stormwater channel is now owned by Sydney Grammar School for use as playing fields, continuing the recreational use of the site. The land under the railway viaduct is owned by Sydney Grammar School and the Rail Corporation of NSW. It is used for carparking for the school. The two allotments of land adjacent New South Head Road are owned by the Crystal Car Wash Pty Ltd and are used as a service station and car wash. Sydney Water owns the land on which the stormwater channel is located.
HISTORICAL THEMES	
National historical theme	Most applicable Heritage Office national historic themes. Organising recreation: Playing and watching organised sports, Entertaining for profit; Feeding people: Developing sources of fresh local produce.
State historical theme	Most applicable Heritage Office state historic themes. Land tenure – original grant and subdivision Environment –preservation of open space Altering the environment: Reclaiming land Ethnic influence (Chinese market gardening) Sport (sporting facilities, trophies, equipment) Events –monuments, sites of special significance and social value
Local historical theme	Most applicable Woollahra thematic history theme Land tenure Environment – Preservation of open space Evolutionary Paddington Sport
APPLICATION OF CRITERIA	
Historical significance SHR criteria (a)	An item is important in the course, or pattern, of Woollahra's cultural or natural history. <i>White City</i> is part of a highly significant cultural landscape that is able to demonstrate the evolution of Lower Paddington from the original land grant given in 1817 to William Thomas, as swampy land unsuitable for settlement, to market gardening by Europeans and later as Chinese market gardens, and then to the <i>White City</i> Amusement Park in 1913, and on its failure, the lawn tennis grounds known as <i>White City</i>. The natural topography that resulted in the flood-

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	prone nature of the site has historically influenced land uses in the area, making it particularly suitable for recreational activities on the site, which have been continuous since at least 1913. The sites' complex overlays are of high significance for their ability to demonstrate a continuity of open space uses. The open storm water channel is evidence of the former creek and drainage line that ran through the site and is an identifiable early element of the site. The <i>White City</i> centre courts complex has exceptional historic significance as a place where the sport of tennis in Australia reached international status, and as the home of significant international competition tennis matches. The southern stand is significant as the first construction about the centre courts in 1923 and the late 1920s. It is significant for its continuity of use between 1923 and 1999. The northern stand stage 1 is significant as part of the early development of the tennis complex. The moveable heritage of the White City Club collection, signage and maintenance equipment is a valuable record of 20th century tennis history. <i>These attributes are of high significance at a local level, and in relation to the White City tennis complex, of exceptional significance at a state level.</i>	
	Guidelines for inclusion • Shows evidence of a significant human activity • Is associated with a significant activity or historical phase • Maintains or shows the continuity of a historical process or activity	Guidelines for exclusion • Has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important activities or processes • Provides evidence of activities or processes that are of dubious historical importance • Has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association
Historical association significance SHR criteria (b)	An item has strong or special association with the life or works of a person, or group of persons, of importance in Woollahra's cultural or natural history. The site of <i>White City</i> is significant for its association with early settlers in the colony. Originally granted to William Thomas in 1817, it was later acquired by Daniel Cooper and James Holt in 1940, and then subsequently by Sarah Booth. The centre courts complex is associated with Henry Marsh, after whom the 1930s northern grandstand was named. Henry Marsh and Charles T Bull, the President of the Lawn Tennis Association, are credited with being the driving force in the search for the new grounds for the NSW Lawn Tennis Grounds Ltd in 1919, which was formed to control and run the grounds of <i>White City</i>. Many famous tennis players have been associated with the centre court and the entire <i>White City</i> complex, particularly as it hosted the Davis Cup for the first time in 1951, and then in 1954, 1960, 1965 and 1977. The world's greatest tennis players are associated with <i>White City</i>, including many Australian players. The stormwater channel is associated with the original natural flow of water preceding human occupation of the site, and with the landmark of the La Crozia Valley and Rushcutter's Bay. <i>These attributes are of high significance at a local level, and in relation to the White City tennis complex and its association with Australian and international tennis players, of exceptional significance at a state level.</i>	
	Guidelines for inclusion • Shows evidence of a significant human occupation • Is associated with a significant event, person, or group of persons	Guidelines for exclusion • Has incidental or unsubstantiated connections with historically important people or events • Provides evidence of people or events that are of dubious historical importance • Has been so altered that it can no longer provide evidence of a particular association

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Aesthetic significance SHR criteria (c)	An item is important in demonstrating aesthetic characteristics and/or a high degree of creative or technical achievement in Woollahra. <i>White City</i> is aesthetically distinctive as a large open space in the context of the dense built form of Paddington. It is a landmark green open valley floor, part of the distinguishing natural and built character elements of the Paddington Heritage Conservation area. The site is part of the low lying valley floor that is part of the natural amphitheatre of Paddington that faces north over former swamplands. The original wetland is expressed in the uniformly level tennis courts, playing fields and parkland of <i>White City</i>, Weigall Sports Ground, Trumper Park and Rushcutters Bay, and generally reflects the major part of the original grant to William Thomas in 1817. The site is the spatial pivot, along with the Weigall Sports Ground, between a series of significant green active and passive recreational spaces over 2 km long from Trumper Park to Reg Bartley Oval and Rushcutters Bay Park. The site is aesthetically pleasing and allows significant views into the site from New South Head Road, across the Weigall Sports Ground from Neild Avenue and surrounding residential streets and significant vistas from within the site taking in the Paddington amphitheatre and the city silhouette. The landscape elements of significant trees and vegetation contribute to the aesthetic importance of the site. The southern stand has some aesthetic significance for its large scale, complex roof superstructure and important contribution to the enclosure around the centre courts, as do the other grandstands to varying degrees. The fabric of the southern stand is a visual record of the increasing popularity of spectator tennis over time, the progressive additions reflecting the rise and rise of spectator sport. The fabric of the northern stand demonstrates the forms and designs of early 20th century player facilities. <i>These attributes are of moderate to high significance at a local level.</i>		
	<table> <tr> <td data-bbox="483 1312 927 1563"> Guidelines for inclusion - Shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement - Is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement Is aesthetically distinctive Has landmark qualities - Exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology </td><td data-bbox="927 1312 1436 1563"> Guidelines for exclusion - Is not a major work by an important designer or artist - Has lost its design or technical integrity - Its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded - Has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement </td></tr> </table>	Guidelines for inclusion - Shows or is associated with, creative or technical innovation or achievement - Is the inspiration for a creative or technical innovation or achievement Is aesthetically distinctive Has landmark qualities - Exemplifies a particular taste, style or technology	Guidelines for exclusion - Is not a major work by an important designer or artist - Has lost its design or technical integrity - Its positive visual or sensory appeal or landmark and scenic qualities have been more than temporarily degraded - Has only a loose association with a creative or technical achievement
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Social significance SHR criteria (d)	An item has strong or special association with a particular community or cultural group in Woollahra for social, cultural or spiritual reasons. The White City Tennis Centre is held in exceptionally high regard with the tennis and broader community as a location for significant tennis tournaments and as a prestigious sporting facility formerly at an international level. The tennis facilities at <i>White City</i> have brought people from all over the state, country and internationally to play both as amateurs and professionals. The centre courts and grandstands were a significant place for the state and the nation, being the arena where many have watched major tennis tournaments played. The relocation of the major tournaments to the Sydney International Tennis Centre at Homebush has reduced that value to the local community. The tennis complex has been used by the NSW Lawn Tennis Association (Tennis NSW) and the White City Club, which have a long association with the		

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	social history of tennis in the region and the state. <i>White City</i> has been recognised by the Paddington Society, Woollahra History and Heritage Society and local National Trust members who have been reactionary to recent attempts to rezone the land. There are social connections to the area of the Rushcutter's Valley in the Aboriginal and Chinese communities. The southern grandstand is of some social significance and as a reminder of the fund-raising efforts required to provide these facilities. <i>These attributes are of high significance at a local level and, in relation to the White City tennis complex, of moderate significance at a state level.</i>	
	Guidelines for inclusion - Is important for its association with an identifiable group - Is important to a community's sense of place	Guidelines for exclusion - Is only important to the community for amenity reasons - Is retained only in preference to a proposed alternative
Technical/Research significance SHR criteria (e)	An item has potential to yield information that will contribute to an understanding Woollahra's cultural or natural history. <i>White City</i> site has retained a low lying open space character that allows an understanding of the earlier swamp and its transformation into sporting and recreational uses. The stormwater channel is evidence of the former Glenmore Creek that drained part of the La Crozia Valley, and is important to the understanding of public health, drainage and flooding issues which have limited the use of the area. The southern grandstand has some technical interest in the design, engineering and construction of the superstructure. The timber components of the roof superstructure are a fine example of a major timber trussed roof. The site has technical associative value in relation to significant innovations, including the Rebound Ace synthetic court, with the first electronic score board built by Ted Both in 1952, and in 1957 with the first live telecasting of the NSW titles match one year after televising began in Australia. <i>These attributes are of moderate significance at a local level.</i>	
	Guidelines for inclusion - Has the potential to yield new or further substantial scientific and/or archaeological information - Is an important benchmark or reference site or type - Provides evidence of past human cultures that is unavailable elsewhere	Guidelines for exclusion - The knowledge gained would be irrelevant to research on science, human history or culture - Has little archaeological or research potential - Only contains information that is readily available from other resources or archaeological sites
Rarity SHR criteria (f)	An item possesses uncommon, rare or endangered aspects of Woollahra's cultural or natural history. <i>White City</i> is a rare example of a tennis venue in Australia where important tennis tournaments may be played on a lawn court. <i>White City</i> was the premier tennis venue in NSW holding international matches until the opening of the Homebush Olympic Tennis Centre in 1999. As a tennis court complex of high historic interest and scale it is unique within the Municipality. Part of the southern stand is a rare example of a large timber trussed purpose-built Inter-War grandstand structure. <i>These attributes are of high significance at a local level.</i>	
	Guidelines for inclusion	Guidelines for exclusion

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	- Provides evidence of a defunct custom, way of life or process - Demonstrates a process, custom or other human activity that is in danger of being lost - Shows unusually accurate evidence of a significant human activity - Is the only example of its type Demonstrates designs or techniques of exceptional interest Shows rare evidence of a significant human activity important to a community	- Is not rare - Is numerous but under threat
Representativeness SHR criteria (g)	An item is important in demonstrating the principal characteristics of a class of Woollahra's cultural or natural places or cultural or natural environments. <i>White City</i> centre court and the surrounding lawn courts have the ability to demonstrate an important part of the sporting history of NSW associated with tennis. The tennis courts complex is a representative example of particular interest due to its extended historic time frame at a critical era of sports and spectator sports development which is in part represented by its physical layers of development and change. The southern grandstand is substantially intact, but in a poor condition, and is a representative example of the Inter-War period's developing engineering and aesthetic approach to larger structures. <i>This attribute is of moderate significance at a local level.</i>	
	Guidelines for inclusion - Is a fine example of its type - Has the principal characteristics of an important class or group of items Has attributes typical or a particular way of life, philosophy, custom, significant process, design, technique or activity - Is a significant variation to a class of items - Is part of a group which collectively illustrates a representative type - Is outstanding because of its setting, condition or size Is outstanding because of its integrity or the esteem in which it is held	Guidelines for exclusion - Is a poor example of its type - Does not include or has lost the range of characteristics of a type - Does not represent well the characteristics that make up a significant variation of a type
Integrity	The degree to which the item retains the aspects which make it significant under the criteria above. The integrity of the site is arguable as many changes have occurred over the course of its history, both overall and at the centre courts arena. The site retains a substantial proportion of the elements which make it significant. The transfer of important tournaments to the Homebush Olympic Tennis Centre has removed the direct association of Tennis NSW with the site. The site retains an ongoing relationship with the game of tennis. Some of the integrity of the centre courts complex has been lost with the loss of connection with tournament tennis. The integrity of the structures themselves has always been questionable due to the ongoing alterations and additions to the stands; however, this is more reflective of the rapid development of spectator tennis. <i>This attribute is of moderate significance at a local level.</i>	

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HERITAGE LISTINGS				
Heritage listing/s	Other Local, State, Commonwealth statutory listing on non-statutory listings for this item. Woollahra Council LEP 1995 (as amended): No State Heritage Register / Inventory: previous nomination for State Heritage Register by Ralph Brading; lapsed. Royal Australian Institute of Architects (NSW Chapter) Register of 20th Century Buildings of Significance: National Trust of Australia (NSW): No Register of the National Estate (now non-statutory): Gazetted as an identified place 27 March 2001			
INFORMATION SOURCES				
Type	Author/Client	Title	Year	Repository
Report	Conybeare Morrison & Partners	Conservation Management Plan	1999 rev. 2004	Woollahra Local History Centre
Document	Ralph Brading	SHR nomination: White City Tennis grounds Site	2000	Woollahra Council file
Document	Australian Heritage Commission	Entry for the Register of the National Estate	2000	Register of the National Estate
Report	Hughes Trueman / Simon Wiltshier	White City Stadium Grandstands – Structural Report	2004	Appendix 9 of Conybeare Morrison CMP 2004
Report	Tyrrells Property Inspections	Condition Assessment	1998/1999	Appendix 2 of Conybeare Morrison CMP 2004
Website	Tennis NSW	http://www.tennis.com.au/nsw/	2013	
Website	Angelo Spampinato	http://www.worldstadiums.com	unknown	
RECOMMENDATIONS				
Recommendations	A revised Conservation Management Plan for the site should be prepared having regard to the age of the previous CMP 2008, the change in use and the deterioration of the site during this period. The revised CMP should be endorsed by Woollahra Municipal Council and used by the landowners as the basis for managing future changes to the site. The White City Development Control Plan 2007 should be updated to reflect the revised CMP and should be used in any future development of the site. This inventory sheet should be endorsed by Council and used in any future development of the site, in conjunction with the CMP and DCP. The White City site should be included as a heritage item in the Woollahra Local Environmental Plan, specifying that the only three items to be retained and/or adapted are specifically the 1923 Southern Grandstand trusses, the Stage 1 Northern Grandstand arches and the NSWLTA gates. The significance of the site, along with the history of the site, should be the subject of an interpretation strategy.			
SOURCE OF THIS INFORMATION				
Inspected by	Name/s of the person/s who carried out the on site assessment of the item.			

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NSW Heritage Manual guidelines used?		Yes ✓	No ☐
This form completed by	Name of person who completed this form. Woollahra Council's Strategic Heritage Officer Woollahra Council, Libby Maher (November 2000, April 2002), revised Sara Reilly (March 2013), Amelia Parkins (2014) and Stephen Davies, Urbis (2014).	Date October 2014	

IMAGES



View of White City looking to the south with the centre courts complex in the centre of the photo with the Moreton Bay Fig to the immediate right

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View of a central portion of the site showing the open green spaces typical of the site



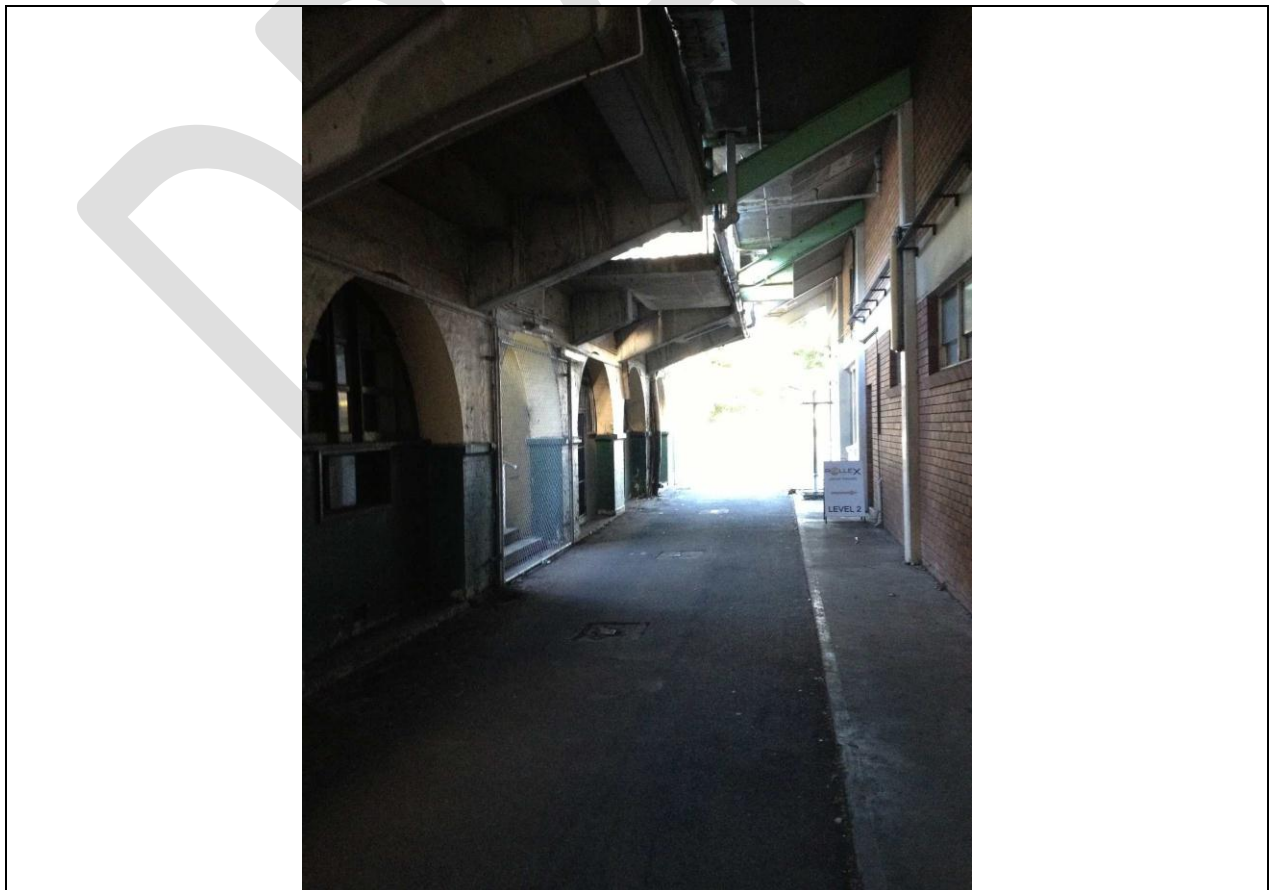
The southern grandstand looking southwest – view of roof scale, vegetated backdrop

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The southern grandstand looking southeast showing the complex superstructure and later steel truss additions



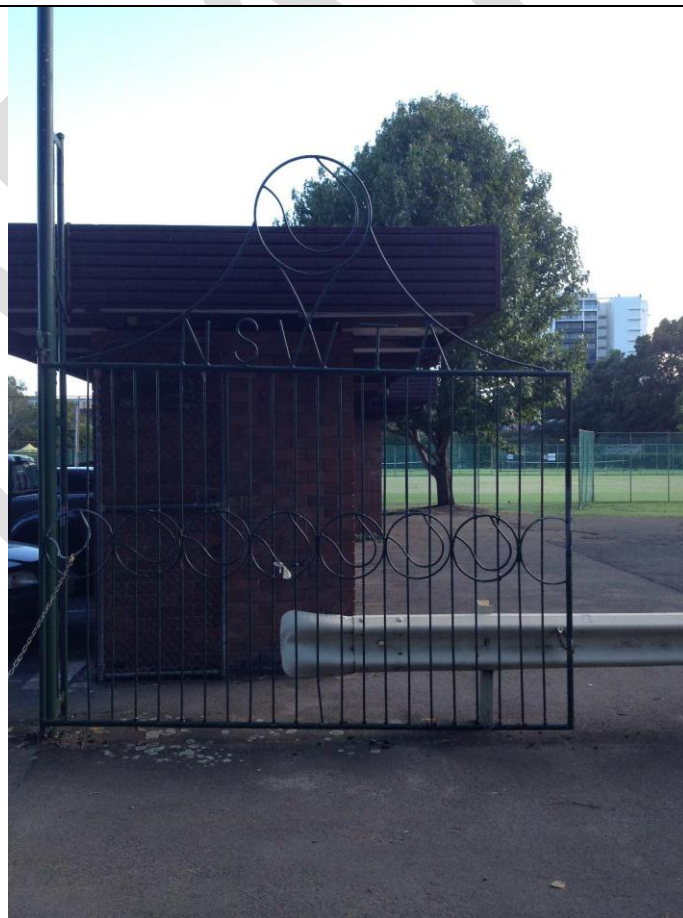
The Marsh Stand (northern grandstand stage 1) showing the 'street' or 'arcade' below the grandstand with the 1930s structure to the left and the 1970s structure to the right

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The Marsh Stand structure with infill joinery and traditional paint scheme



The NSWTA gates (northern gate) with tennis motifs

Images by	Sara Reilly/ Woollahra Council	Image copyright holder	Woollahra Council 2013
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